

**Uniform Sales Tax in States**

†611. SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a demand for a uniform sales tax is being raised stoutly throughout the country;

(b) if so, whether Government have taken into consideration this demand so far; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) (a) to (c) Sir, a Conference of Chief Ministers/State Finance Ministers was convened on 16.11.1999 at New Delhi to discuss reforms in domestic trade taxes. In this Conference, all the States/Union Territories agreed unanimously to adopt uniform floor rates of sales tax as recommended by the Committee of State Finance Ministers w.e.f. 01.01.2000. All the States/Union Territories have since, by and large, adopted uniform floor rates of sales tax.

**Financial Condition of Orissa**

612. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Eleventh Finance Commission has grossly under assessed while non-plan miscellaneous grant has been unduly overpitched as a result of which Orissa government has to face disastrous financial condition in future; and

(b) whether it is a fact that DFID Mission of UK considered that the Orissa debt burden is overwhelming and the fiscal re-adjustment programme need to have support of Government including consideration of debt service relief linked to the reform programme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) The Eleventh Finance

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.